

Message Text

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ACTION EA-09

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 PM-04 NSC-05 SP-02 SS-15 L-03 H-02

AID-05 IGA-02 PRS-01 MC-02 EB-07 TRSE-00 COME-00

ACDA-07 CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 OMB-01 /073 W

----- 060610

R 111143Z MAY 76

FM AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6141

INFO AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

AMEMBASSY MANILA

AMEMBASSY JAKARTA

AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE

AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR

AMEMBASSY RANGOON

AMCONGEN HONG KONG

SECDEF WASHDC

CINCPAC HONOLULU

USIA WASHDC

COMUSMACHTAI BANGKOK

C O N F I D E N T I A L BANGKOK 13369

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MARR, MASS, CB, TH, VS

SUBJECT: EX-VIETNAMESE, CAMBODIAN AND LAOTIAN MAP/MASF EQUIPMENT

REF: STATE 103080

1. SINCE AMBASSADOR'S CALL ON FONMIN PHICHAH HAS NOT YET BEEN SET, DCM TOOK OCCASION TO RAISE SUBJECT EQUIPMENT WITH NFA POLITICAL AFFAIRS DIRECTOR GENERAL KOSON SINTHAWANON DURING CALL ON MAY 11. DCM NOTED THAT ALL MAP/MASF EQUIPMENT COMING FROM CAMBODIA, SOUTH VIET-NAM AND LAOS AT TIME OF CHANGES OF REGIME HAD EITHER BEEN TAKEN OUT OF THAILAND OR TURNED OVER TO THAI ARMED FORCES.

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2. DCM CONTINUED THAT U.S. GOVERNMENT WAS CONCERNED AT

RECENT COMMENT TO PRESS BY FOREIGN MINISTER PHICHAIRATTAKUN THAT SUCH EQUIPMENT REMAINING IN THAILAND MIGHT BE TURNED BACK TO COMMUNIST GOVERNMENTS IN VIETNAM AND CAMBODIA. U.S. GOVERNMENT WOULD BE VERY CONCERNED INDEED IF SUCH ACTION WERE TO BE TAKEN. DCM NOTED THAT U.S. WAS NOT REPORTING NOT CLAIMING EQUIPMENT WHICH WAS CAPTURED BY COMMUNIST GOVERNMENTS AND FLOWN TO THAILAND BY DEFECTORS WELL AFTER FALL OF SAIGON AND PHNOM PENH. HOWEVER, OUR POSITION ON EQUIPMENT WHICH CAME OUT OF INDOCHINA AREA AT THE TIME OF THE FALL OF NON-COMMUNIST GOVERNMENTS WAS ABSOLUTELY FIRM. REASONS FOR THIS HAD BEEN EXPLAINED TO MFA IN DETAIL.

3. KOSON SAID HE WAS FULLY AWARE OF OUR POSITION AND SAW NO PROBLEM. PHICHAIR WAS UNAWARE OF THE SITUATION WHEN HE MADE HIS OFF-THE-CUFF PRESS REMARKS. HE HAS NOW BEEN BRIEFED AND UNDERSTANDS THE PROBLEM. KOSON SAID HE HOPED WE WOULD CONSIDER HIS OWN STATEMENT THAT PHICHAIR HAS BEEN BRIEFED ON THE MATTER AND UNDERSTOOD THE ISSUE, RATHER THAN ANY PRESS MATERIAL WHICH MIGHT APPEAR IN THE FUTURE. HE SAID THAT THERE WOULD BE NO PROBLEM WITH SUBJECT EQUIPMENT.

4. GIVEN KOSON'S ASSURANCES, WE INTEND LET MATTER REST.
WHITEHOUSE

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